

1ST ARMORED DIVISION
AMERICA'S TANK DIVISION

The Old Ironsides Report

100 JOURS PART AIRBORNE

Friday, November 07, 2003

3rd Brigade Combat Team dedicates Butler Range Complex



Brig. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, left, 1st Armored Division's assistant division commander for maneuver, and Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Hopkins, 3rd Brigade Combat Team command sergeant major, unveil the sign marking the opening of the Butler Range Complex. The range is named in honor of Sgt. Jacob L. Butler, the first 1st Armored Division soldier killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom

By Spc. John S. Wollaston, 3rd BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Soldiers from 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team gathered Nov. 1 for a ceremony dedicating the Butler Range Complex to their late friend and fellow soldier, Sgt. Jacob L. Butler.

Butler, a scout for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, died during one of the first heavy engagements of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The battalion was supporting elements of the 82nd Airborne Division in and around the southern Iraqi town of as-Samwah when they ran into heavy opposition near a bridge, as they crossing the Euphrates River. The battalion's scouts were sent forward to assess the enemy strength on the far side of the bridge. When a fellow scout was wounded after a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) struck his vehicle, Butler went forward to continue the reconnaissance mission and rescue his fellow soldier. He was killed when small-arms fire and an RPG struck his vehicle.

Butler was the first soldier from the 1st Armored Division to die in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His death stunned the battalion. "Sgt. Butler took the fight to the enemy so the enemy couldn't bring the fight to us," said 3rd BCT commander Col. Russ Gold during the dedication ceremony. "His actions that day saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and countless others that followed."

Gold drew a comparison between Butler and the biblical character Jacob. He pointed out how they were both were "scouting the way for those who followed behind." The first range of its type anywhere in Iraq, Butler Range Complex is capable of supporting various types of tank, artillery and infantry gunnery training, which is critical to maintaining a soldier's war-fighting skills. The maneuver battalions in the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team have already begun blasting away at targets on the range, honing their skills should they be needed again here in Iraq.

SPORTS

Rebuilt Big East lures schools from Conference USA

NEW YORK (ESPN) -- The Big East, stung by the impending departure of three key members to the Atlantic Coast Conference, responded Tuesday by luring five schools from Conference USA.

Louisville, Cincinnati and South Florida accepted invitations to join the Big East in all sports. DePaul and Marquette, which do not have football teams, will join the conference in all other sports. The five schools will begin play in the Big East in the 2005-06 academic year.

The Big East suffered a serious blow over the summer when Miami and Virginia Tech voted to leave and join the ACC after the current academic year ends. Boston College voted last month to leave for the ACC, but that move might not take place until 2006.

"The ACC had a choice. We had no choice," Big East commissioner Mike Tranchese said. "We didn't force people to do this. People wanted to do this. We probably could have [taken more schools]."

The departure left the Big East in a precarious position, but the league needed just a few months to respond and chart its future course, even if it weakened another league.

Safety Tip

Don't become a safety statistic by becoming complacent

Enforce standards

Don't take shortcuts

When performing unfamiliar tasks, ask your leadership questions

Remain vigilant and report suspicious activity

Force Protection, Force Protection, Force Protection

Chaplain's thought for the day **Yet will I trust**

Job said, "Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust in him." -Job 13:15 (KJV)

Job was a righteous man and a rich man. Satan tried to break him with a series of disasters and calamities. In one day, Job lost all his oxen, donkeys, sheep, camels, and most of his servants. While his ten children were together, a strong wind struck the house, killing all of them. Children and possessions were taken away from Job, and finally he lost even his health.

His wife suggested that he "curse God, and die" (Job 2:9). His friends told him he must have sinned greatly to be so afflicted, but Job replied, "Though [God] slay me, yet will I trust in him."

He trusted in God despite the turmoil and devastation that surrounded him.

Like Job, even when disasters and calamities come our way, we can keep trusting in our God who will never leave us or forsake us.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Oddly Enough

Move over beauty queens, Italy seeks Miss Digital

MILAN (Reuters) - The movie star Sophia Loren (news) may have been the icon of 20th-century Italian beauty but times have changed and now she's being challenged for her crown by virtual divas in the first "Miss Digital World" competition.

A new beauty contest kicking off in Italy next week will give pixel-perfect pin-ups the chance to steal sultry Sophia's sex-symbol status. "Miss Digital World" is the first beauty contest reserved for the likes of videogame heroine Lara Croft, computer-cloned actresses from the "Matrix" films and new beauties tweaked to perfection with 3D graphics.

Digital artists, advertising agencies and videogame programmers from around the world have been asked to send a computer design of their perfect woman to www.missdigitalworld.com, complete with date of birth and body measurements.

"Every age has its ideal of beauty, and every age produces its visual incarnation of that ideal from the Venus de Milo in ancient Greece to Marilyn Monroe in the 1960s," Franz Cerami, the creator of the competition, said. "Miss Digital World is the search for a contemporary ideal of beauty, seen through virtual reality," he told Reuters.

Designers will program their contestants to parade along a virtual catwalk, and there'll be a virtual presenter and virtual guests who will help create the atmosphere of a beauty contest.

The winner will be crowned at a flesh-and-blood conference in November 2004 and Cerami hopes the digital queen will go on to greater things with roles in videogames, virtual reality films and adverts.

But beware those who think beauty need only be screen-deep. The virtual world has its ethical rules too.

"They should not have taken part -- not even as extras or cameos -- in pornographic films, shows or plays nor have made statements...in any way out of tune with the moral spirit of the competition," organizers said.

This Day in History **Nov. 7, 1989**

Two African American firsts in politics

From HistoryChannel.com

On this date in history, Nov. 7, 1989, New York, former Manhattan borough president David Dinkins, a Democrat, is elected New York City's first African American mayor, while in Virginia, Lieutenant Governor Douglas Wilder, also a Democrat, becomes the first elected African American state governor in American history.

Although Wilder was the first African American to be popularly elected to the governor's post, he was not the first African American to hold that office. That distinction goes to Pinkney Benton Stewart Pinchback, a Reconstruction-era lieutenant general of Louisiana who became Louisiana state governor in December 1872. Pinchback served as acting governor for five weeks while impeachment proceedings were in progress against Governor Henry Clay Warmoth.

Wilder served as Virginia governor until 1993, whereupon he was forced to step down because Virginia law prohibits governors from serving two terms in succession. In 1993, Dinkins was defeated in his bid to win a second mayoral term by Republican challenger Rudolph Giuliani.